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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Eric W. Jorgensen, St. Stephen's Reformed Episcopal Church, Eldersburg, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, we humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor. Bless these Representatives who faithfully serve the citizens of this Nation. Grant them a solemn sense of responsibility before God and their fellow man. Care for their loved ones in need while they labor in this House. Help them to stand firm in conviction where warranted and grant the ability to come to consensus when needed.

We ask the same for other government branches and for Your mercy upon those who defend our national life and liberty. Make us all strong and great in the fear of God and in love of righteousness that blessed of Thee we may be a blessing to all people. Grant this by the authority of Him who was and is and is to come. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLEAVER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND ERIC W. JORGENSEN

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I want to thank one of my constituents, Pastor Eric W. Jorgensen of St. Stephen's Reformed Episcopal Church in Eldersburg, Maryland, for serving as a guest chaplain of the House of Representatives and providing us a beautiful prayer before we begin our work.

This is a tradition begun by Benjamin Franklin that has been followed ever since by the House of Representatives and the Senate. Benjamin Franklin, then 82 years of age, rose during a moment of crisis during our Constitutional Convention. This is part of what he said: "In the days of our contest with Great Britain when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for divine protection. I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall without his notice, can a Nation rise without his aid?"

"I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of heaven and its blessings on our deliberations be held in this assembly every morning before we begin to proceed to any other business."

Thank you, Mr. Franklin, for this precedent. Thank you, Pastor Jorgensen, for helping to continue this great tradition.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

END THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, this morning I rose from my slumber and turned on C-SPAN, as I always do, and caller after caller mentioned that they interpret what goes on here in this body as irrelevant, that we don't listen to the American people. Of course, if they are talking about the war, which most Americans want ended, they are right. If they are referring back to the Terri Schiavo incident, they are right. But many of them were talking about the SCHIP program. It is troublesome to me that we will not provide health insurance for 10 million children.

I don't attack the President, I don't condemn my colleagues and call them names, but I have got to say that it is embarrassing that the dreams of the American public show up here on this floor to die. This has become the burial ground for American dreams.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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